Alberta Government Olympic Commitments – Overview

Alberta

85-1560/

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

OLYMPIC COMMITMENTS

OVERVIEW

August, 1984

INTRODUCTION

The Alberta Government made a commitment in 1981 to support the bid by the Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) to host the XV Olympic Winter Games in 1988. The nature and extent of the financial and program commitments were outlined in a letter dated September 25, 1981 from the Premier, the Honourable Peter Lougheed, to Frank King, Chairman of CODA. A summary of the capital commitments referenced in that letter is as follows:

1. The Athletes' Village to be constructed at the University of Calgary as a part of the required housing facilities on campus.

2. The speedskating oval to be constructed at the University of Calgary as part of the physical education facilities on campus.

3. An upgrading of existing facilities at McMahon Stadium, to be utilized in the Opening Ceremonies for the Winter Games.

4. An appropriate extension of existing communication networks within the City of Calgary.

5. The ski jumps, bobsleigh and luge run, cross-country and biathlon facilities which are to be located in the Nordic recreation area at Bragg Creek, including infrastructure and transportation costs.

6. Capital costs to be incurred at the Alpine venues in order to upgrade these venues from recreational to competition sites, including related infrastructure and transportation costs.

CODA's estimated cost for the development projects listed above was $123,000,000. Conditions associated with the Alberta Government's capital commitment included participation in a revenue sharing program which was expected to result in a net total capital contribution by the Alberta Government of approximately $70,000,000. In addition, a previous commitment to pay one-third of the capital cost of the Olympic coliseum (i.e. Olympic Saddledome) was referenced in the Premier's letter but was not included in the $123,000,000 cost estimate.

On September 30, 1981 Calgary was awarded the right to host the 1988 Olympic Winter Games and the XV Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee (OCO'88) was established to fulfill the implementation and hosting responsibilities. An agreement between OCO'88 and the Alberta Government on specific financial and development responsibilities was executed on December 29, 1983.

Projects which have been DELETED from the original commitment at the request of OCO'88 are the ski jumps, bobsleigh and luge run and the speedskating oval. The Government of Canada has now made the commitment to develop these facilities.

A project which has been DELETED from the original commitment at the request of the Alberta Government is the extension of existing communications networks within the City of Calgary. No present or future need for this project for Olympic purposes can be identified at this time.

Alberta Government commitments to the hosting of the Olympics include projects which are directly funded by an Olympics budget (primary) and those which will be developed through established government programs (associated). Regardless of the source of funding, all proposed facilities are deemed to represent an integral part of the Games requirements.

Primary Projects:

1. The upgrading of the proposed ski area at Mt. Allan to Olympic competition standards.

2. The development of the Canmore Nordic Centre for cross-country and biathlon competitions.

3. The provision of permanent facilities required for the Athletes' Village to be located at the University of Calgary.

4. A capital contribution of $7,350,000 (1982-83 dollars) for the upgrading of McMahon Stadium which is the facility to be used for the Opening Ceremonies. This is a joint venture commitment with OCO'88.

5. A capital contribution of one-third of the total capital cost of the Olympic Saddledome.

6. The contribution of $2.7 million dollars to OCO'88 for start-up operation costs.

Associated Projects:

1. Expansion of the Physical Education Facilities at the University of Calgary Campus. This project will cost $30 million and is being funded through Alberta Advanced Education. This facility plus other facilities presently existing on campus will be used by athletes before and during the Games.

2. Mt. Allan Recreational Ski Area:

   - The development of a base recreational ski area, which will be upgraded to meet the requirements for hosting all Olympic alpine events (estimated cost $19.9 million).

In addition, the Alberta Government has agreed to provide certain discretionary services to OCO'88 where possible. This relates to such things as providing advice on transportation, security, and cultural matters, etc.

A budget summary of Alberta Government commitments is attached as Fig. 1.

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA OLYMPICS PROGRAM
BUDGET SUMMARY
(excludes administrative costs)

PROJECT	EXPENDITURE TO 1983/84 YEAR END	1984/85 BUDGET (1984/85 $s)	GLOBAL PROJECTIONS (1984/85 $s)	NOTES
OLYMPICS CAPITAL PROGRAM				
Alpine Venue (Mt. Allan Upgrading)	147,143	1,597,153	5,421,246	
Nordic Venues				
Jumps, Bobsleigh & Luge	27,164	0	27,164	Commitment Fulfilled
Canmore Nordic Center	204,208	2,932,508	12,892,920	Excludes Primary Access Road
McMahon Stadium Upgrading	260,000	7,785,000	8,045,000	Commitment Fulfilled
Athlete' Village	150,000	104,700	16,012,050	
Olympic Saddledome	33,300,000	0	33,300,000	Commitment Fulfilled
SUB TOTAL	34,088,515	12,419,361	75,698,380	
OLYMPICS OPERATING PROGRAM				
1984 Olympic Winter Games (Sarajevo)	44,348	0	44,348	Commitment Fulfilled
1984 Olympic Summer Games (Los Angeles)	0	75,000	75,000	
Financial Assistance (OCO'88)	2,700,000	0	2,700,000	Commitment Fulfilled
SUB TOTAL	2,744,348	75,000	2,819,348	
TOTAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM	36,832,863	12,494,361	78,517,728	
ASSOCIATED PROJECTS				
Recreational Ski Development (Mt. Allan)	441,430	6,638,885	19,893,914	
Physical Education Facilities - Advanced Education	0	4,500,000	30,000,000	
TOTAL ASSOCIATED PROJECTS	441,430	11,138,885	49,893,914	
TOTAL OLYMPICS & ASSOCIATED PROJECTS	37,274,293	23,633,246	128,411,642	

FIG. 1

ORGANIZATION

Alberta Recreation and Parks has been assigned lead agency responsibility for coordinating the Alberta Government's involvement in the Olympics. On March 1, 1983 the Olympic Secretariat was formed to carry out the Olympics mandate of Recreation and Parks. The key responsibilities of the Olympic Secretariat are to function as the government liaison with OCO'88 and to ensure that the Alberta Government commitments are successfully fulfilled.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALBERTA'S OLYMPIC COMMITMENT, CONTACT:

Olympic Secretariat
Alberta Recreation and Parks
#1630 Standard Life Centre
10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3N4

Telephone: (403) 422-4044

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A Special Committee for the Review of Wildlife and Environmental Matters was formed in July 1983. Its purpose is to provide advice to the Olympic Secretariat on all environmental matters associated with the proposed development of Olympic facilities at Mt. Allan and the Canmore Nordic Centre. Committee responsibilities also include liaison with the general public where environmental concerns are expressed.

Membership on the committee includes:

- Fish and Wildlife Division, Energy and Natural Resources (Chairman)
- Alberta Environment
- Alberta Recreation and Parks
- OCO'88
- Olympic Secretariat (Ex-officio)

The primary activities to date are the formal requests which were made, via news releases and direct requests, for the submission of environmental briefs on the Mt. Allan and "Georgetown" (i.e. Canmore Nordic Centre) sites. The opportunity was available for any group or individual to submit their concerns/recommendations re environmental matters to the Alberta Government for formal consideration and response. Six briefs were received on the Mt. Allan project and one on the Canmore Nordic Centre. All have been responded to.

Additional activities undertaken by the committee or members of the committee include meetings with, and presentations to, various interest groups and participation in the master planning for the Mt. Allan and Canmore Nordic Centre projects. The committee will ensure that appropriate environmental mitigation measures are incorporated, as required, into the implementation process and long term operational plans.

For more information on environmental matters concerning Mount Allan or the Canmore Nordic Centre, write:

Chairman
Special Committee for the Review of Wildlife and Environmental Matters
c/o Fish and Wildlife Division
Alberta Energy and Natural Resources
Main Floor, Petroleum Plaza, North Tower
9945 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2G6

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY

As previously outlined, the Olympic Secretariat, Alberta Recreation and Parks, is responsible for coordinating the provincial government's involvement in the 1988 Winter Olympics. Delegated implementation responsibilities are as follows:

a) Mt. Allan and Canmore Nordic Centre - Public Works, Supply & Services
- Transportation (access road)

b) Athletes' Village and McMahon Stadium Expansion Project - University of Calgary

Interdepartmental working committees have been established for each project and include representation by OCO'88 and sport and other agencies as appropriate.

ALPINE VENUE - MT. ALLAN

Location:

- Mt. Allan is located approximately 90 kilometres west of Calgary via the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 40 (refer to Fig. 2). The site is within Kananaskis Country (I.D. #5), a major year-round recreational area.

Project Objectives:

- To develop an economically viable recreational day use ski area.

- To involve the private sector in the operation of the ski area either through a lease arrangement or possibly a lease/purchase.

- To ensure that the minimum requirements for hosting the Olympic Alpine events in 1988 are met and that every effort is made to facilitate high calibre Olympic competition.

- To create ongoing opportunities for training and competitions at the site.

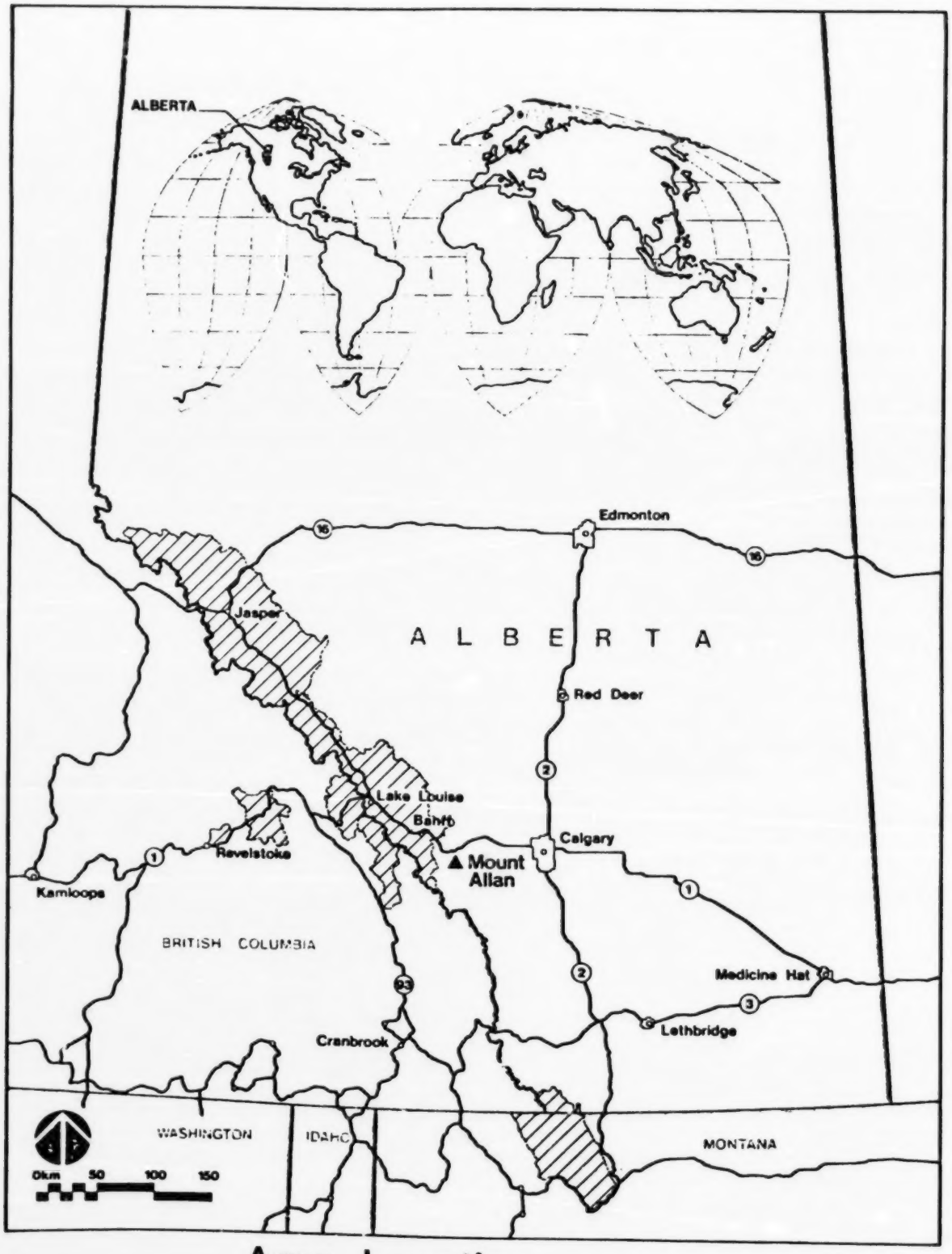
- To minimize any potential negative impacts on the environment (i.e. Bighorn Sheep).

Project Description:

- This project represents the development of a day use recreational ski area which is upgraded to accommodate the six Olympic alpine events. In addition, the area is being designed to accommodate long term training and competition uses.

- The development program is comprised of three major lift systems which will provide access to 30 ski trails, over a 255 acre site. It will accommodate a 4000 skier capacity. Parking will be provided for 1400 vehicles, while a main base lodge and a mid-mountain lodge will be developed to meet skier needs. A snow-making system will be installed to allow coverage on 193 acres or 76% of the long term recreational ski area. This capacity should lengthen the ski season and enhance the site's economic viability.

- The Olympic portion of the program consists of competitive courses for the men's and ladies' downhill, slalom and giant slalom events. A temporary lift system will be installed to provide access to the top of the men's downhill run. This will be dismantled after the Games. In addition, a dedicated course will be provided for ongoing training and competition purposes. Adequate provision has been made in the planning and design of the site and facilities to accommodate all of the festival-specific (e.g. temporary) requirements associated with staging the Olympics.



Area Location

FIG. 2

- An Environmental Protection Plan has been developed to ensure that any potential environmental impacts are minimized through the design and construction process, during the hosting of the Olympic Winter Games and in the ongoing operation of the ski facilities.

Project Responsibilities:

- Alberta Tourism and Small Business was responsible for coordinating the planning of the recreational ski area and undertaking private sector developer negotiations. This department will continue to function as lead agency in involving the private sector in the operational aspects of the project.

- The Olympic Secretariat is responsible for ensuring that Olympic competition and legacy requirements are adequately incorporated into the planning, design and implementation program.

- Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services is responsible for detailed design and construction, with the exception of the primary access road which will be the responsibility of Alberta Transporta- tion.

- OCO'88 is responsible for identifying and providing all temporary facilities associated with staging the Alpine events for both the mandatory pre-test competitions in 1987 and the Olympic Games in 1988.

Schedule:

- The construction program began in June 1984.

- The construction program is expected to take 24 months to complete. Facilities will be available for use in 1986-87.

- Copies of the executive summary of the Mount Allan Master Plan are available from the Olympic Secretariat.

Costs:

- The cost of the recreational component of the development program is estimated to cost approximately $19.9 million.

- The cost of Olympics and legacy portion of the program is estimated to cost approximately $5.4 million.

NORDIC VENUE - CANMORE NORDIC CENTRE

Location:

- The Canmore Nordic Centre site is located approximately 100 kilometres west of Calgary and is immediately to the northwest of the Town of Canmore (refer to Fig. 3). Access to the site is via the Trans-Canada Highway, through the Town of Canmore and approximately 1.8 kilometres up the Smith-Dorrien Highway (S.R. 742). The site is located within Kananaskis Country (I.D. #5).

Project Objectives:

- To ensure that the minimum requirements and standards for hosting the Olympic cross country, biathlon and skiing component of the Nordic Combined competitions are met and that these are effectively integrated into the longer term, permanent site requirements.

- To develop a facility which is both economically and operationally efficient for short (i.e. Olympics) and longer term uses.

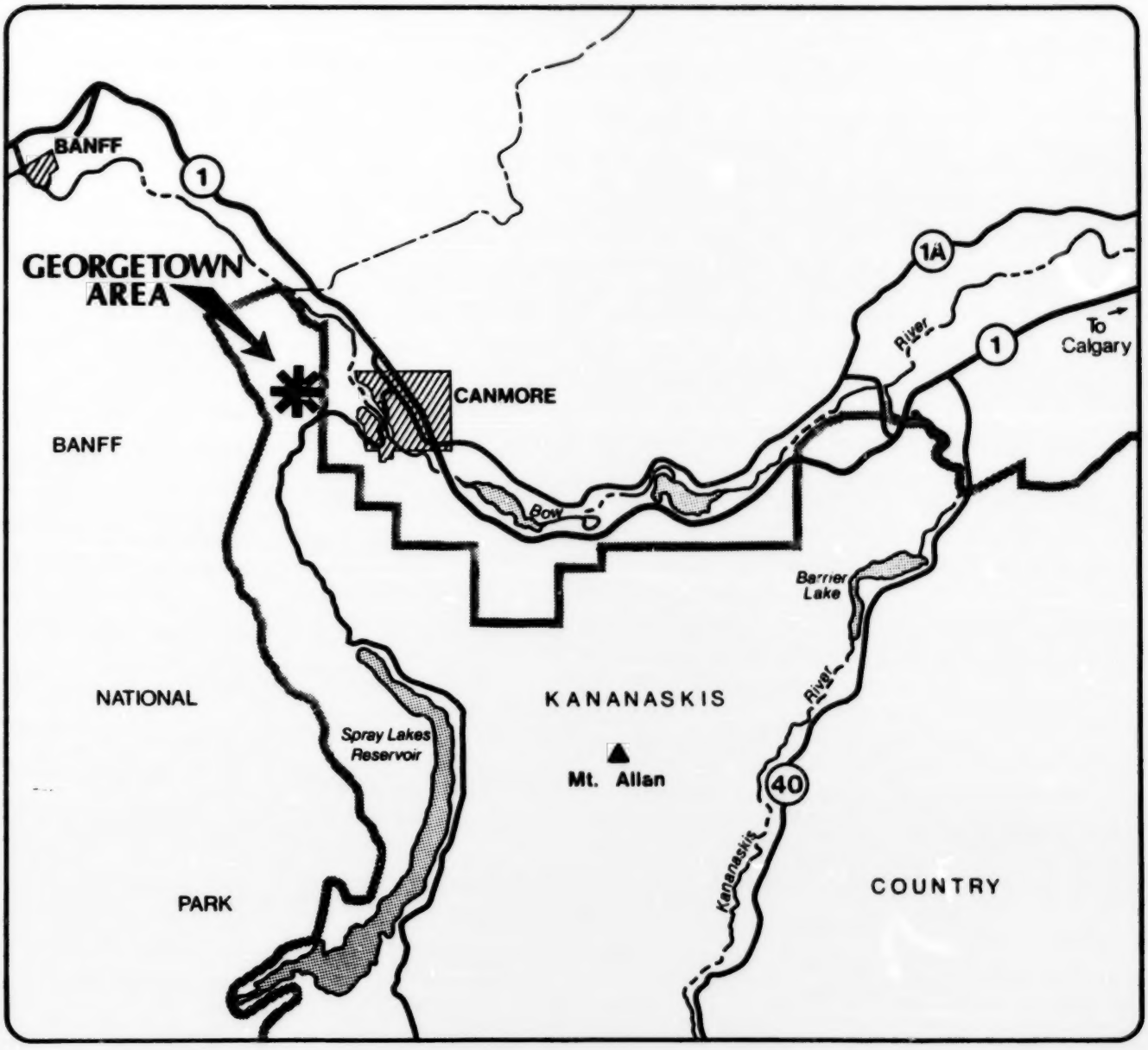
- To maximize benefits to the Town of Canmore where possible and practical.

- To create opportunities for ongoing training and competitions at the site.

Project Description:

- The proposed development program consists of competition trails which meet the standards set down for cross country, biathlon and Nordic Combined. The total trail system is expected to comprise less than 50 kilometres, although final courses have not been established. In addition, a biathlon shooting range will be built; the number of targets has not been finalized.

- A main stadium building is proposed to accommodate such functions as public eating areas, administrative requirements, class and meeting rooms, showers, lockers and possibly some limited retail space. The stadium is being designed in such a way that certain Olympic functions can be easily incorporated into the building without compromising the long term recreational and training uses. A smaller building is also being considered for development adjacent to the shooting range to accommodate some of the biathlete requirements.



Georgetown Area

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Kananaskis Country Boundary

0 5 10 15 kilometres

0 5 10 Miles

north

FIG. 3

- A maintenance compound, parking area and a limited number of permanent team rooms are also in the program. Snowmaking capacity will be on site in the event that insufficient snow exists on the trail for the competitions. This will provide the capacity for making and stockpiling snow which could be trucked onto the trails if necessary.

- Training and recreational trails and associated opportunities will be incorporated into the site program where practical.

- Sufficient land area has been identified to accommodate all temporary facilities and activities associated with hosting the Olympic events (i.e. media trailers, marking huts, etc.)

- An environmental protection and operational plan will be prepared once a final site design has been approved.

Project Responsibilities:

- The Olympic Secretariat is responsible for coordinating the planning for this project as well as ensuring that the Olympics standards and requirements are incorporated into the master plan.

- Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services is responsible for the detailed design and construction with the exception of the primary access road which is the responsibility of Alberta Transportation.

- OCO'88 is responsible for identifying and providing all temporary facilities associated with staging these nordic events for the mandatory pre-test competitions in 1987 and the Olympic Games in 1988.

Schedule:

- Contruction of the Canmore Nordic Centre will begin in the winter of 1984.

- Facilities will be complete and available for competition and recreation use in 1986-87.

Costs:

- The cost of developing the Canmore Nordic Centre is estimated at $12.9 million, excluding the primary access road.

McMAHON STADIUM EXPANSION PROJECT

Location:

- McMahon Stadium is located within the City of Calgary and is in close proximity to the University of Calgary campus (refer to Fig. 4).

Project Objectives:

- To ensure that 50,000 people can be accommodated at the Opening Ceremonies of the XV Olympic Winter Games.

- To ensure that Olympic and long term stadium requirements are integrated in the most practical and economical manner.

Project Description:

- This project represents the upgrading of the existing McMahon Stadium facilities to accommodate the Olympic Opening Ceremonies, some Olympic adminiministrative and operational needs and to enhance the ongoing viability of the stadium.

- The upgrading will consist of the addition of approximately 15,000 new seats, some of which will be temporary, the installation of a new sound system, a press box elevator, new artificial turf, and the development of the Olympic Volunteer Centre and service centre requirements.

- The development program is being undertaken as a joint funding venture by the Alberta Government and OCO'88.

Project Responsibilities:

- The University of Calgary is responsible for the planning, design and implementation of the expansion project.

- The Olympic Secretariat is responsible for providing approximately one-half of the funds required to complete the project and is also responsible for liaising with the University of Calgary and others to ensure that the project is completed within the guidelines established.

- OCO'88 is responsible for providing the other half of the funds for the project and is also responsible for identifying and providing all temporary facilities required to host the Opening Ceremonies.

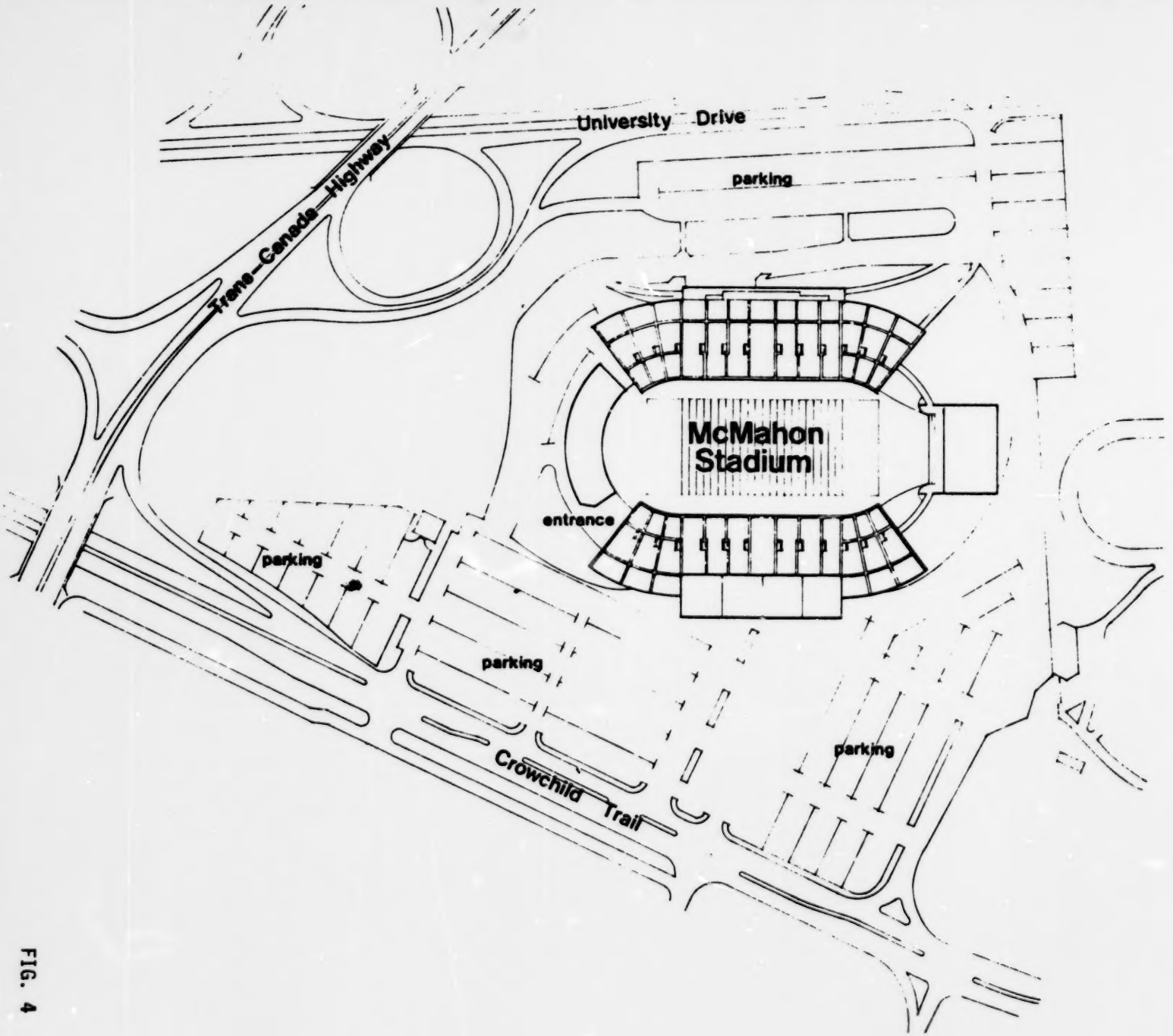

University Drive
parking
Trans-Canada Highway
McMahon Stadium
entrance
parking
parking
parking
Crowchild Trail

FIG. 4

- The McMahon Stadium Society, as the present lessee of the McMahon Stadium facilities, is responsible for providing advice and assistance on all operational matters associated with the expansion project and its proposed uses before, during and after the Games.

Schedule:

- Construction began on the Olympic Volunteer Centre in May 1984, with completion expected in May 1985. The installation of the new sound system and the concessions will begin in 1985 with completion in 1986.

- The construction of the covered stands will be completed in 1986-87.

- The additional infill seating, service centre requirements and remaining miscellaneous items will be completed in 1987.

Costs:

- The total estimated cost of the upgrading project is $15.8 million (1984-85 dollars).

- The Alberta Government provided its share of funding in the form of two grants to the University of Calgary. $260,000 was granted in 1983-84 and the balance of $7,785,000 was forwarded upon signing of the legal sub-agreement (i.e. May 1984). The total contribution by the Province was $8,045,000.

- OCO'88 has committed to provide the balance of the funding for the project on or before March 31, 1986.

ATHLETES' VILLAGE

Location:

- The athletes' village is to be located on the University of Calgary campus, within the City of Calgary (refer to Fig. 5). This site is located within approximately one hour's driving time from each of the Olympic venues and therefore meets the travelling distance time criterion established by the I.O.C.

Project Objectives:

- To integrate University and Olympic requirements to the highest degree possible.

- To ensure that the short term Olympic requirements are compatible with the longer term interests of the University and can be met in the most cost and operationally efficient manner.

- To minimize disruption to the University of Calgary academic program during the Olympic Winter Games.

Project Description:

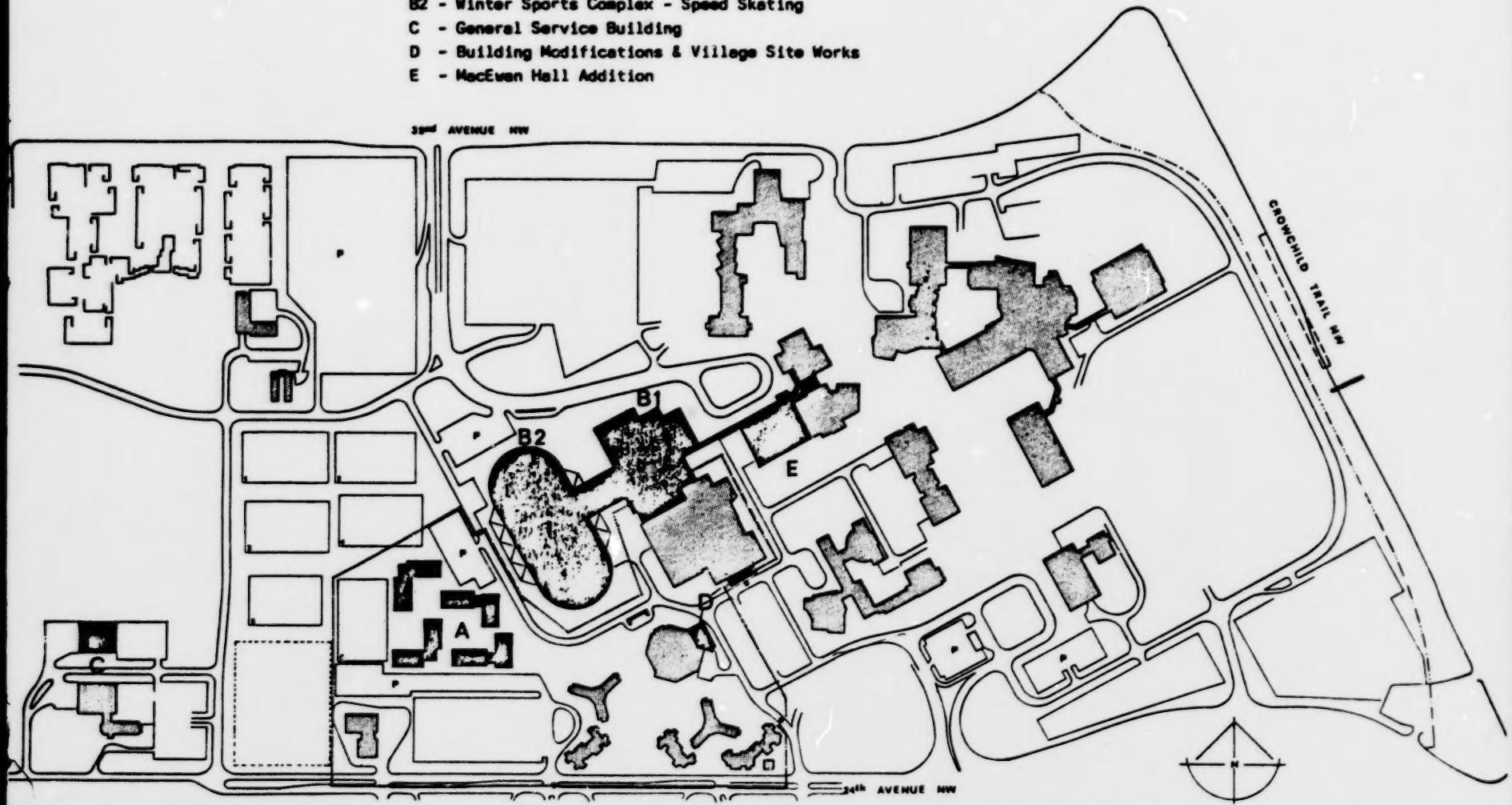
- The program represents the provision of adequate housing, recreational/training and other ancilliary services (i.e. medical, dining, etc.) for athletes competing in the 1988 Olympic Winter Games.

- Many of the requirements can be met through existing facilities and programs at the University campus. The development program consists of the construction of additional student housing units (i.e. 316) to bring the capacity to 2000 persons. Also the expansion of student services and physical education facilities is proposed to supplement existing programs and satisfy Athletes' Village needs.

Project Responsibility:

- The University of Calgary is responsible for the planning, design and construction of this project. It has also agreed to provide a number of existing facilities for use by OCO'88 during the Games.

A - Additional Student Housing
B1 - Physical Education Expansion
B2 - Winter Sports Complex - Speed Skating
C - General Service Building
D - Building Modifications & Village Site Works
E - MacEwan Hall Addition



1988 WINTER OLYMPICS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FIG. 5

- The Olympic Secretariat is responsible for funding the student housing and student services construction projects and for liaising with the University to ensure that the projects are developed within established guidelines.

- Alberta Advanced Education is responsible for funding and monitoring the development of the physical education expansion project.

- OCO'88 is responsible for providing technical input on Olympic requirements and assuming responsiblity for all festival-specific facilities and activities.

Schedule:

- Preliminary programming for the facilities is complete.

- Construction start-up is planned for 1985 with completion targeted for 1987.

Costs:

- The proposed cost of the student housing and services is $16,012,050 (1984-85 dollars) and is being funded through the Olympic Secretariat.

- The proposed cost of the Physical Education expansion is $30,000,000 (1984-85 dollars) and is being funded through Alberta Advanced Education.